

## Celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM)

## May 2015

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| AB  |  |  |   |  | JAHM was set into law by President George W. Bush in 2006, according to the Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Jewish_American_Heritage_Month  | JEWISH<br>AMERICAN<br>HERITAGE MONTH   |
| The month of May was chosen to recognize the more than 350 year history of Jewish contributions to American Culture.  http://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/about.html | Isaac Mayer Wise (1819-1900)   | One of the most prominent Jewish leaders of the 19th century, Isaac Mayer Wise was instrumental in major ideas and institutions of Reform Judaism in America. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Mayer_Wise                  | Rugelach is a Jewish pastry originating in Ashkenazy, or European Jewish, culture. The pastry is sometimes referred to as a butter horn, nut horn, or cream cheese cookie in the United States.  http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-rugelach.htm                                       | 7<br>Israel's Flag   | R Canadian filmmaker Joe Balass tells the story of his own family's history in "Baghdad Twist." The film documents the disappearance of Iraq's Jewish community in the aftermath of the Arab- Israeli wars of 1948-1967. http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15- 063.html?locfr=rssloc | 9  |
| Jewish American Food Culture  | The first Jewish holiday is the celebration of the new year, Rosh Hashanan. This is a ten-day period in which Jews reflect on their lives of the previous year. http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Ha-La/Jewish-Americans.html  | 12   | There is a list of permissible and impermissible foods for Orthodox Jews and others who observe <i>kashrut</i> . The <i>kashrut</i> is a system of food laws for eating kosher foods and avoiding <i>trefa</i> foods. http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Ha-La/Jewish-Americans.html | Louis Brandeis<br>(1856-1941)  | Louis was the first Jew to serve on America's highest court and became one of the most influential figures, with opinions that defended right to privacy, freedom of speech, and labor laws. http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/jewish-americanheritage-month/21291.html            | Jews have won 26 percent of the Kennedy Center Honors, which go to our most outstanding performing artists.  http:// www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-l-pease/celebrating-may-as-jewish_b_568193.html |
| 17  | Jewish women and men made up a large percentage of those white Americans who actively participated in rallies, sit-ins, marches, voter registration drives, and Freedom Rides. http://jwa.org/discover/throughtheyear/may/jahm | Companies like Dell, Qualcom, Google. Oracle, and Intel are just a tiny portion of the leading high tech companies created and led by Jews. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-l-pease/celebrating-may-as-jewish_b_568193. | JEWISH MIERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  | The most important Jewish traditions stem from the mitzvot, which are 613 holy obligations found in the Torah and Talmud.  http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Ha-La/Jewish-Americans.html   | Commonly heard expressions are: Shalom—Peace (a general greeting); Shalom lekha—Hello/ Goodbye; Mazel tov— Good luck; Tizkeh le-shanim— Long life to you; and L'shana tova— Good year. http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Ha-La/Jewish-Americans.html                                | Sabbath  |
| 24  Happy Chanukah  | Ruth Bader Ginsburg (b. 1933)  | An outspoken Champion of feminist causes, Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the first Jewish woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. http://www.cute-calendar.com/ event/jewish-American-heritage- month/21291.html                   | Although Jews comprise less than three percent of the American population, Jews have generally had a larger representation in American government, business, academia, and entertainment.  http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Ha-La/Jewish-Americans.html                            | 28 Between 1850 and 1924 nearly three million Jews fled Central Europe, Russia, Rumania and Austro- Hungary.  http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/health/services/ diversity-and-inclusion/cultural- competence-education-and-training/ jewish-american.cfm | Jews started or shaped every major Hollywood movie studio as well as our three radio and television networks (ABC, CBS, and NBC).  http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-l-pease/celebrating-may-as-jewish_b_568193.html   | 30<br>Israel's Emblem  |
| Many Americans are not aware that the bagel is Jewish, or that the word comes from the Yiddish beigen, "to bend."   |  |  |   |  |   |  |

## Department of Corrections celebrates May as: Jewish American Heritage Month

We are a nation of immigrants. Little has been more fortuitous than the rich mélange of tribes and cultures that arrived from foreign shores to populate and share our land. Among them were three major waves of Jewish immigrants whose contributions are now being celebrated during May's Jewish American Heritage Month. **The first wave** -- 23 Jews -- arrived in 1654 from today's Brazil. They were escaping the onslaught of the Inquisition which imperiled their lives. After being allowed to immigrate, they demanded and received the right to participate as equals in defending their adopted colony. **The second**, in the early to mid 1800s, were mostly from today's Germany. They too were escaping persecution as efforts to change the politics of that part of the world brought strife. **The third**, and by far the largest group -- roughly two million Jews -- arrived impoverished from the Pale of Russia. Though Jews have cherished education for most of 2,000 years, the harsh circumstances of the Pale left most of these Jews illiterate. Yet within a generation, 20 percent of the student body at Harvard was Jewish, as was 40 percent at Columbia, and 80 percent at Hunter College. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-l-pease/celebrating-may-as-jewish\_b\_568193.html